

the Clinton campaign for the U.S. Presidency, where he beefs up beef price to consumers while pouring strategic oil on troubled motorists. But in all the campaigning, no mention is made of India, where voters outnumber those in Israel, Russia and the U.S. combined.

As a result of this uncharacteristic White House for bearance, television coverage here about the biggest election has been next to nil. Not only do Americans not know for which Indian candidate to root, but hundreds of millions of voters are forced to go to the polls ignorant of Mr. Clinton's preference.

Why? Do nearly 900 million Indians not matter? American lack of interest is not new; a former Foreign Minister of India, one of Nehru's acolytes, told a U.S. envoy: "We would far prefer your detestation in your indifference."

One reason is that India strikes a holier-than-thou diplomatic pose, remaining non-aligned when there is no longer one side to be nonaligned against. Year after year, India is near the top of the list of nations that consistently vote against the U.S. in the United Nations.

We're wrong to let that overly irritate us. China votes against us, too, and unbalances our trade and secretly ships missiles to rogue states and jails dissidents and oppresses Tibet and threatens Taiwan and (cover the children's eyes) pirates our CD's—but we care more about what happens in China than what happens in India.

That's a mistake. Contrary to what all the new Old China Hands and other Old Nixon Hands tell you, India will draw ahead of China as a superpower in the next century.

Yes, China's economic growth rate has doubled India's, and China's Draconian control of births will see India's population exceed China's soon enough, to India's disadvantage. But China does not know what an election is. Despite the enterprise and industriousness of its people, despite the example of free Chinese on Taiwan and the inspiration of the dissident Wei Jingsheng, jailed in Beijing, China is several upheavals and decades away from the democracy India already enjoys.

Without political freedom, capitalism cannot long thrive. Already the requirements of political repression are stultifying the flow of market information in China, driving wary Hong Kong executives to Sydney. The suppression of dangerous data undermined technology in Communist Russia; it will hurt China, too.

Though more Chinese are literate, many more Indians are English-literate (more English-speakers than in Britain), and English is the global language of the computer. American software companies are already locating in Bangalore, India's Silicon Valley. Bureaucratic corruption scandals abound; India's free press reports and helps cleanse them, China's does not.

I'm rooting for Rao, the secular Prime Minister, who is more likely to move toward free markets than Vajpayee, his leading opponent. But whoever wins, it's a glorious week for the world's largest democracy.

HONORING THE GRANVILLE CO-OP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Granville Co-Op Volunteer

Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in fire-fighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

MCGILL-TOOLEN HIGH SCHOOL CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to have this opportunity to rise before this body and bring to the attention of my colleagues the centennial celebration of McGill-Toolen High School in Mobile, AL.

In 1950, I had the privilege of obtaining my high school diploma from this distinguished institution and fondly remember the years I spent under the tutelage of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart.

McGill Institute was founded in 1896 through the generosity of two brothers, Arthur and Felix McGill, to offer "Catholic boys the advantages and facilities of acquiring with little or no expense, a literary, commercial, industrial, and technical education which would enable them to earn an honorable livelihood." Their charter was granted on February 15, 1896, and classes began November 29, 1897.

Bishop Toolen High School for girls opened in 1928 to offer young women an education that would develop "intelligent, cultured, healthy, and social-minded American Catholics devoted to their country's interests."

In 1973, McGill Institute and Bishop Toolen High School were merged to become McGill-Toolen High School. Combining the best from each school has produced an institution stronger than the two were separately.

From its inception as an institution of higher learning, McGill-Toolen has upheld the standards of Catholic education and fostered the intellectual and spiritual growth of thousands of young men and women in Alabama. This dedication to excellence and respect for the individual have been the cornerstone of McGill-Toolen and this single mindedness has not diminished over its 100-year history.

The mission of McGill-Toolen has always been comprehensive in terms of serving the educational and emotional needs of the secondary students in the archdiocese of Mobile. McGill-Toolen High School and its predecessors have, for 100 years, provided outstanding education grounded in the moral and spiritual precepts of the Catholic faith.

Today, McGill-Toolen High School is considered one of the finest institutions in the region in the areas of academics, technology, sports, and spiritual growth. Its students consistently rank in top percentiles nationally on achievement tests and are well prepared for both college and life. Over the years, more than 17,000 graduates have made outstanding contributions to the city of Mobile, the Catholic Church and our Nation.

On this 100th anniversary celebration of McGill-Toolen High School, let us fondly remember and justly congratulate the accomplishments of a fine institution and look forward to the next 100 years of academic and personal excellence to which the name of McGill-Toolen is so deservedly associated.

THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF GAINESVILLE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on May 14, 1871, an earnest group of east Texas Christians established the First Baptist Church of Gainesville, TX. On Sunday, May 19, 1996, First Baptist Church will celebrate its 125th anniversary—a testament to the hard work and dedication of its congregations and its pastors and to the ministry that First Baptist Church has provided in Gainesville and in Cooke County for more than a century.

From its humble beginning amid frontier surroundings, First Baptist Church has flourished through both good times and bad. The church's 44 founding members—some of whose ancestors are part of the present congregation—would be proud to see their church grow to its current roster of approximately 2,000 members. The church has occupied three buildings throughout its history. The first was destroyed by fire, and the second was replaced by the current facility in 1952. Since that time, as the congregation has continued to grow, the church has expanded to encompass a full city block and portions of two others. There have been 32 pastors of First Baptist Church, including the present pastor, Dr. Bennie Slack.

First Baptist Church has always had an active ministry. The church was active in helping meet the needs of members of the armed services, during World War II. Its leaders were instrumental in organizing the current food collection program for Cooke County, and its congregation continues to support a strong missions program. First Baptist has a large and active youth group, a strong senior adult group, large choir, and strong music program—in addition to many other activities and programs for members of all ages.

Mr. Speaker, religious freedom was a principle upon which our Nation was established. Our Founding Fathers—and the founding